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ON READING LATIN ALOUD*

I have read with much satisfaction the advice of C. K. (*THE CLASSICAL WEEKLY* 10.81-82, 89-90, 97-98) to read Latin aloud, which I can support from my own experience.

I urge all with the greatest emphasis to follow C. K.'s advice. Nearly all the time spent in translating into English is thrown away; because, if the reader has a proper command of English, and if he understands what he reads, he can translate nearly all of it without difficulty when put to it. The really difficult bits, which tax the translator, are few. Do not suppose this is a counsel of perfection. Our staple work in this School is reading aloud, nothing else: every book is read aloud from beginning to end, and the result is that large masses are retained in the memory without further effort. We only make sure that it is *understood*, and difficulties are explained in Latin (or Greek) until they are understood. And, though it may seem strange, when we do want to translate, we can do it very easily. We compete with all other Schools, where all the time is spent in translation, we compete, I say, in the very difficult scholarship examinations, and hold our own easily; although these consist chiefly of translation—I could indeed say more with truth, but I content myself with that. And the enjoyment is multiplied a hundredfold; real, genuine, unforced enjoyment, which can only come when the matter is understood at once, such enjoyment as we have rarely felt with Horace and Vergil, because our enjoyment came *after* long hours of wrestling and drudgery spent on these very texts. The boy trained in reading gets his drudgery done upon very different material; he comes fresh to Vergil and Horace, and makes their acquaintance in the most favorable circumstances. And there is no mistake possible when a boy does enjoy something; he lets you know it.

PERSE SCHOOL HOUSE,
Cambridge, England.

W. H. D. ROUSE.

DEUS PRAESIDIUM NOSTRUM†

Praesens maioribus deus,
iam posterisque spes,
nos ventis, undis perditos
in portum tuto ages.

Potenti regno sub tuo
metu omni liberi,
tibi solum confidimus,
re nulla territi.

Ante ipsam terram conditam,
ante ardua montium,
e sempiterno tempore
aeternum te deum!

*Part of a letter sent by Dr. Rouse last spring. The rest of the letter, which enters into highly controversial matters, may, perhaps, be presented at a later time, when there is space for controversy, and I have leisure to discuss Dr. Rouse's views in detail.—C. K.

†These Latin stanzas, a version of Isaac Watts's familiar hymn, O God, our help in ages past, Our hope for years to come, are offered as an addition to the material available for singing.

Vicissitudo temporum
saeculorum saecula
aetati non ferunt tuae
moram nec taedia.

Mortales aufert tempus heu,
ut flumen, irritos,
aut somniis aut mobili
aurae simillimos.

Ut antea, patrum deus,
sic semper nos colas;
emensos aequor te duce
in portum tuto agas!

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA.

H. C. NUTTING.

UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN STUDIES
HUMANISTIC SERIES

Mention should have been made before this of important additions to the University of Michigan Studies, Humanistic Series. In 1915 Professor Louis Charles Karpinski, of the Department of Mathematics of the University of Michigan, brought out an edition of Robert of Chester's Latin Translation of the Algebra of Al-Khowarismi; this contained the Latin text, an English translation of that text, an Introduction, and Critical Notes. The original work is one of importance in the history of mathematics, as may be seen from an examination of reviews of Professor Karpinski's edition, the one, by Professor David Eugene Smith, the distinguished mathematician, of Teachers College, published in *Science* 43.389-391 (March 17, 1916), the other, by Professor Milton W. Humphreys, distinguished at once as Greek scholar and as mathematician, in *The American Journal of Philology* 37.354-357.

In 1916 Dr. John Garrett Winter, of the University of Michigan, produced an English version, accompanied by an Introduction and Explanatory notes, of *The Prodnomus* of Nicolaus Steno's Dissertation Concerning a Solid Body Enclosed by Process of Nature within a Solid Body. This has been reviewed by Professor Humphreys, in *The American Journal of Philology*, 38.201-203.

These two books form parts of Volume XI of the University of Michigan Studies.

In 1917 Professor Henry A. Sanders, of the University of Michigan, produced further fruits of his study of the Freer Biblical Manuscripts in a volume entitled *The Old Testament Manuscripts in the Freer Collection, Part II, The Washington Manuscript of the Psalms*. This forms part of Volume VIII of the University of Michigan Studies. For Professor Sanders's earlier studies of these manuscripts, as well as for the importance of the manuscripts themselves, see a review in *THE CLASSICAL WEEKLY* 6.213-214, by Professor B. W. Bacon, of Yale University.

The decipherment of the manuscript of the Psalms was a work of enormous difficulty, requiring endless patience and skill. In the Introduction to the present volume Professor Sanders discusses I. The Manuscript (107-109); II. Palaeography (110-124); III. The Text Problem (125-132).

C. K.